

March 11, 1974

this bill than they will earn handling the normal problems with child support. Let me illustrate very simply why I strongly urge you to reverse yourself and kill this bill. It says that if I as a person obligated to pay child support don't pay that support, I lose my drivers license. If Senator Kime, sitting right next to me is a happily married man, and he has children and he fails to pay his child support....he fails to support his children which he is obligated to do, nothing happens. Now, in a nutshell, that's a denial of equal protection of the law and it's as simple as that. If the rest of you want to vote on this because you think you're doing something for motherhood and the flag and cherry pie and all that sort of thing, fine. If you want to vote for it because you think you think you're going to cut some rich lawyers out of business where they'll get richer, that's fine. If you think you're going mothers that need child support, you're making a mistake. If you think you're doing anything but causing more litigation and more problems, then you are grossly going to be surprised. And I would like to call upon any of the other lawyers who are members of this Body, I would yield to Senator Luedtke, to Senator DeCamp, to Senator Carstens, to Senator Proud, to Senator Waldron, to Senator Cavanaugh and all the other people who should be lawyers like Senator Syas and all the other members of this Body and who probably could pass at least three-quarters or even more of the bar exam if they go to take it. Now, I would yield and respect the opinions of any of the others. This is not a big thing and I don't think it's worth an awful lot more time or debate. But I strongly urge that this bill should be killed because it's going to cause more havoc and trouble. And it isn't going to accomplish the noble motives that are ascribed to it. And I say this notwithstanding the fact that Senator Schmit means well. Senator Schmit's a friend of mine and I would like to help him. Possibly I'm being super technical but I think this is just going to be one of those little things that's going to add some honest to goodness fuel to those that say the Legislature, the whole bunch of them are no good, if they had any brains, they wouldn't have gone there in the first place and they'd prove it by acts like this. I think they're correct on this measure.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, then Proud and then Fred Carstens.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. Never let it be said that I'm anti-lawyer. I think I introduce enough legislation to keep the lawyers busy day after day after day. Not only that, I think they have plenty do now if they would enforce the provisions of the law that have been imposed by members of this Legislature over the years. In regard to LB957, the challenge has been laid down that it was introduced frivolously, that it's ill conceived, that it will not accomplish that which it was intended to do. I want to ask you this question. Name me specifically what has been accomplished by existing legislation. Explain to me if you can the millions of dollars of uncollected child support that is on the books in Douglas and Lancaster Counties principally and again this is principally the area from which I obtained the opposition to this bill. Douglas and Lancaster Counties. And I would say to you that this is evidence that the present statutes are not working and I will tell you why. I have followed and I have followed carefully and meticulously the efforts of several mothers who have attempted to collect their child support which has been granted to them by the court. I will outline for you and you do not